

AGENDA ITEM IV B 1 AND 2

PROPOSED CURRICULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVISIONS

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Request to Change the Name of the Department of Biometry and Genetics to the Department of Genetics

Request to Incorporate Biometry into the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

STAFF COMMENT

The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center proposes a twofold administrative change involving Biometry and Genetics studies, as follows:

1. To change the Name of the Department of Biometry and Genetics to the Department of Genetics; and
2. To move Biometry studies from the Department of Genetics to the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

The LSUHSC notes that Genetics is emerging as one of the most important areas for academic and research pursuit both at the Center and similar entities nationwide. To remain on the cusp of innovation in this area, the Center proposes a stand-alone Department of Genetics. It is the Center's belief that a distinct Genetics administrative unit is needed in order for LSUHSC to recruit the faculty needed to establish competitive research and education programs in this area, as well as related areas of geonomics and computational biology. If Genetics is established as a distinct unit, then Biometry studies, which focuses largely on public health issues, would be moved to the Biostatistics Section within the existing Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

There appears to be no significant financial impact associated with this request. The current Section Head for Genetics within the Department of Biometry and Genetics will be named Chair for the new Department of Genetics. Any augmentation of his salary for assuming new responsibilities will come from existing Center funds.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The staff concurs with the request from the LSUHSC.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the request from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center to:

- 1. To change the Name of the Department of Biometry and Genetics to the Department of Genetics; and***
- 2. To move Biometry studies from the Department of Genetics to the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.***

These changes shall become effective immediately.